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Draft Guidance on Venlafaxine Hydrochloride

February 2026

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, or the Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the Office of Generic Drugs.

In general, FDA's guidance documents do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, guidances describe the Agency's current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of the word *should* in Agency guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required.

Active Ingredient:	Venlafaxine hydrochloride
Dosage Form:	Tablet
Route:	Oral
Strengths:	EQ 12.5 mg Base, EQ 25 mg Base, EQ 37.5 mg Base, EQ 50 mg Base, EQ 75 mg Base, EQ 100 mg Base
Recommended Study:	Two options: (1) Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS) Class I-based biowaiver, or (2) one in vivo bioequivalence study with pharmacokinetic endpoints

I. Option 1: BCS Class I-based biowaiver

A waiver request of in vivo testing for this product may be considered provided that the appropriate documentation regarding high solubility, high permeability and rapid dissolution of the test product and reference listed drug (RLD)[1] as detailed in the most recent version of the guidance for industry *M9 Biopharmaceutics Classification System-Based Biowaivers*[a] is submitted in the application. Applicants may use information contained in the approved labeling of the RLD. Peer-reviewed articles may not contain the necessary details of the testing for the FDA to make a judgment regarding the quality of the studies. A decision regarding the acceptability of the waiver request will be made upon assessment of the data submitted in the application.

[1] If the RLD is not available, refer to the most recent version of the guidance for industry *Referencing Approved Drug Products in ANDA Submissions.*

II. Option 2: One in vivo bioequivalence study with pharmacokinetic endpoints

1. Type of study: Fed
   Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period crossover in vivo
   Strength: EQ 50 mg Base
   Subjects: Healthy males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females
   Additional comments: Bioequivalence studies under fasting conditions are not recommended due to safety concerns.

Analyte to measure: Venlafaxine in plasma

Bioequivalence based on (90% CI): Venlafaxine

Waiver request of in vivo testing of additional strengths: Justification based on (i) an acceptable bioequivalence study on the EQ 50 mg Base strength, (ii) acceptable comparative in vitro dissolution studies between additional strengths and the EQ 50 mg Base strength using 12 units per strength, and (iii) proportional similarity of the formulations across all strengths.

Dissolution: Dissolution test(s) should be included for quality control and to support waiver request of in vivo testing of additional strengths.

Dissolution test method and sampling times: Provide a dissolution method development report for the test product containing information and data that demonstrate appropriateness of the selected dissolution method[2] and sampling times, such as the discriminating ability to detect changes in critical quality attributes that could potentially impact drug product performance.

For drug products containing high solubility drug substances that meet the rapidly dissolving criteria, demonstration of discriminating ability may not be needed. For additional information, refer to the most recent version of the guidance for industry *Dissolution Testing and Acceptance Criteria for Immediate-Release Solid Oral Dosage Form Drug Products Containing High Solubility Drug Substances*.[a]

If any strength of the tablet product has a functional score, additional dissolution profile testing should be conducted for each segment of the split tablet after manual and mechanical splitting as per the most recent version of the guidance for industry *Tablet Scoring: Nomenclature, Labeling, and Data for Evaluation*.[a]

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[a] For the most recent version of a guidance, refer to the FDA guidance website at https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents.

[2] Applicant-developed, United States Pharmacopeia drug product monograph or Dissolution Methods database, https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/dissolution/index.cfm